

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Wednesday, May 06, 2021 • 9:30a - 12:00p
Zoom Meeting ID: 831 2287 2099, Passcode: 606908

Present via Zoom: Bob Hamel, Braden Baker, Trey Shelton, Dede DePercin, Leslie Tyson, Christina King, Logan Myers, Justin Zeisler, Ed Perko, Greg Felt, JW Wilder

In Attendance via Zoom: Tom Waters, Kalem Lenard, Jennifer Crawford, John Kreski, Corrine Servis, Jim Pitts, Sean Shepherd, John Smeins, Ryan Bouton, Matt Nykiel

Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Sean Shepard introduced himself and informed the group that Jim Aragon has retired, and that his position is currently unfilled.

Public Attendees and CTF Members Roundtable

A reminder that Fred Rasmussen Award nominations are always being accepted. Please nominate any individuals who have had a large impact on supporting recreation or the resources in our area by emailing ahra@state.co.us.

Chaffee County Public Health is working on a plan to offer vaccines to seasonal workers. More information to follow in upcoming weeks. Some at-home COVID tests are becoming available for individuals who work in public-facing positions.

CTF Business

New Delegate Update

Tom is working to finalize the new delegate choices and will follow up in the coming weeks.

AHRA Updates

Park Manager Updates

VFMP Update

This VFMP water year is currently being modeled off of the 2018 season. A meeting will be held later today regarding the current status of water. Pueblo does plan to move water during the VFMP period, which will help maintain flows. The Southeastern Water Conservancy District is meeting later today to discuss water flows.

Salida East Renovation

Salida East will be closed after Labor Day for renovations. CPW, alongside the BLM, is currently working on a draft plan for this area. Feedback will be requested from CTF in upcoming meetings. The boat ramp should remain open during the process.

Gear Boats

Gear boats are no longer allowed to launch from a historical outfitter site above Browns.

A request has been made by other outfitters to create or locate a new or existing site for this type of activity. A trial period has been proposed, allowing 2 slots for 2 gear boats after 2pm to launch from Ruby Mountain. No parking or rigging allowed at the site. More details to follow.

Maverick Ranch

Habitat improvements were made at this site (near Wellsville), but some felt that these improvements were unfavorable for navigation. Some modifications have been made following the completion of the project.

Moving forward, an improved review process has been put in place to avoid these complications in the future, to include both habitat and navigability considerations.

Barbed wire, “Private Property” signs at CR371 Bridge (Old Biz, 01/2020)

There has been some confusion recently regarding access to this property. As a clarification, there is no public access at this site. A plan is in place to get this area signed appropriately. CTF members can help by communicating this information to their user groups.

Silver Bullet

An agreement has been made between CPW and the Skaret family, granting an easement through the property alongside the Silver Bullet. Even with the potential sale of the property, the easement will remain in place, allowing the AHRA access to the site as necessary for construction or public safety.

Granite Rock Recreation Site

Groundwork at the Granite Rock Recreation Site will begin again this coming Fall.

Rationing and Permit Updates

Private Boater Education

Communication and user days have been posted to the [Private Boater webpage](#) as part of the private boater education effort for Browns Canyon.

Thank you to CTF for your continued support in getting this information out to your constituents.

Section 5 Commercial Capacity (Labor Day)

AHRA will monitor capacities in Section 5 to determine whether a modification is necessary for commercial capacities.

BLM Updates

Chaffee County Camping Plans

Employees and interns are being hired to assist with educating the public, especially in dispersed camping areas. RGFO started a public comment period for the Chaffee County Camping and Travel Management Plan. For more information, or to comment, visit the [BLM ePlanning Page](#). The comment period closes May 20th.

California Gulch Mine, (John Smeins RGFO)

More information about the California Gulch restoration project may be found [online](#).

Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Fund, (John Smeins RGFO)

The BLM RGFO and CO Dept of Public Health & Environment are soliciting project proposals for restoration or remediation projects. For more information view the [Solicitation for Project Proposals document](#). Proposals due by Sept 3, 2021.

Roundtable and Enviro/Recreation Committee Updates

The Forest Health project at monarch is one of many projects happening in Chaffee County right now. Forest Health Program will be added to next month's CTF agenda.

Set date for next meeting, adjourn

A Doodle poll will be sent to schedule an October meeting date.

Items Previously Tabled / Marked for Follow-Up

- [Patagonia's ArtiFISHal](#) discussion (Old Biz, 04/2020)
- Forest Health Programs (Greg Felt) (Old Biz, 08/2020)